

Newsletter No. 189

August 10, 1992

1. The chipmill threat: your comments on DEIS are essential p. 3
2. Big South Fork land acquisition p. 4
 A. Status of appropriation B. TNC acquires tract
3. Obed: Management Plan; funding p. 4
 A. Management objectives C. Operating budget abysmal
 B. Obed facts D. Catoosa clearcuts
4. Around the state p. 6
 A. Dam for Fiery Gizzard? D. I-26 a disaster G. Rivers Assessment
 B. TVA small Wild Areas E. Center Hill EIS H. Wetlands
 C. Olympics for Ocoee F. Cedar glades J. Zebra mussel
5. Smokies Wilderness update p. 8
6. Stripmine news p. 8
 A. Polluting mine allowed to operate B. Abandoned mine lands
7. Greenways for Oak Ridge as well as Knoxville p. 9
8. U.S. forests: the conservation issue of the decade p. 9
 A. U.S. rainforests worse off than Amazon D. Status of logging
 B. Status of bills E. Right to appeal
 C. "Wise-Use" movement targets forests F. Critical reports
9. Other National issues p. 11
 A. Endangered Species battle D. No refuge in Refuges
 B. Bad Montana wilderness bill E. Wetlands pledge again broken
 C. 1872 Mining Law reform F. Threats to Glacier Bay
10. The elections and the environment p. 13
 A. The Gore factor B. To help you pick candidates
11. TCWP news p. 14
 A. Forest issues for Annual Mtg D. Writing back
 B. New executive director E. Reminders – once again
 C. Board activities F. We thank our volunteers
12. Job openings, activities; reading matter p. 15
13. ACTION SUMMARY p. 2

14. ACTION SUMMARY

| No. | Issue | Contact | "Message!" or Action |
|------|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Chtp mill EIS | TVA | "Donot grant <u>any</u> of the permits!" |
| 2A | Big S. Fork appropriations | Sens. Sasser, Gore; Rep. Cooper | "Thanks for efforts! In Conference comm. , support Senate version on BSF acquis. & operating \$\$\$!" |
| 3C | Obed operating budget | Sens. Sasser, Gore; Rep. Cooper | "Do not permit Obed to be funding stepchild!" |
| 4A | Flery Gizzard dam? | R. Baker, Tenn. DoEC (copies to state legislators) | "Do not grant permit for dam; hold public hearing!" |
| 4C | Ocoee for Olympics | Cherokee NF | "Keep me informed re input in EIS!" |
| 4E | Center Hill development | Corps of Engineers Sens/ Sasser, Gore | "Keep me informed re input in EIS!" "Thank you!" |
| 4G | Rivers Assessment | Tenn. DoEC | Return the form |
| 7 | Oak Ridge Greenways | TCWP | Volunteer |
| 8B,C | Forest-protection bills | US Rep US Senators | "Support HR. 4899 with Option 12(c)!" "Co-sponsor Leahy/Adams bill!" |
| 8E | Forest appeals | US Senators US Rep Sen. Fowler | "Strongly support Sen. Fowler's bill!" "Support similar legislation in House!" "Thank you!" |
| 9A | Endangered Species | US Rep and Sens. | "Co-sponsor HR. 4045!" |
| 9B | Montana Wilderness | US Rep | "Oppose S.1696!" |
| 9C | 1872 Mining Law | Rep. George Miller US Senators | "Thanks for reform bill!" "Support strong mining law reform!" |
| 9D | Wildlife Refuges | US Sens. and Rep. | "Co-sponsor S.1862/HR. 3688 and HR. 2881!" |
| 9E | Wetland protection | US Rep. | "Co-sponsor HR. 4255; oppose HR. 1330!" |
| 9F | Glacier Bay | US Sens. and Rep. (Copy to NPS Dir.) | "Oppose S. 1624/HR. 3418!" |
| | Windy-Grassy mine | US Sens. and Rep. Premier of D.C. | "Co-sponsor S.JR. 280/H.JR. 460!" "Oppose mine! Support wilderness!" |
| 10B | Election | LCV and Vote Smart | Obtain Informative material on candidates. |
| 11A | TCWP Annual Meeting | TCWP | Reserve Oct. 23-25; inform friends. |
| 11B | TCWP Office | TCWP | Loan equipment, furniture: contribute \$\$\$ |
| 11D | TCWP reminders | TCWP | Take action on dues, work on issues. |

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Governor Ned McWherter
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman/woman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Gov. McWherter
Respectfully yours,

To call a Representative or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, (202) 224-3121
To find out about the status of federal bills, call (202) 225-1772

1. THE CHIPMILL THREAT: YOUR COMMENTS ON DEIS ARE ESSENTIAL

We hope many of you took action on receiving TCWP's special mailing of July 23 and have sent comments on TVA's Draft Environmental Statement (DEIS) on chipmills. But if you haven't already done so, there is still time: the deadline for receipt of comments is August 21 (see below for address). An adverse outcome on this issue would have disastrous environmental and economic effects on our state and region (NL 188 ¶2).

Do not be lulled into a false sense of security by the DEIS' statement that "TVA is inclined to deny" the three permit applications. "Not inclined" is not a final decision. During the current comment period, TVA is undoubtedly getting tremendous pressures from the chipmill industry and their allies in the "Wise Use" movement. Unless they hear overwhelmingly from us, they may end up with some "compromise," such as granting one of the three permit applications. The precedent from one would be just about as bad as the granting of three permits.

We remind you of some of the consequences of letting chipmills come into this region. The DEIS estimates that each operating chipmill would eat 12,000-23,000 acres of forest annually, or 1.3 million acres of forest land (twice the area of the Smokies) over the next 20 years. Clear-cutting would rise from 44% to about 69% of each harvest. And clear-cutting brings about soil erosion, stream siltation, flooding, loss of biodiversity, and reduced opportunities for outdoor recreation. These facts alone can form the basis for your comments. Your comments need not be long; they need only make it quite clear that you support denial of all permits.

In case you are more ambitious and wish to comment on the DEIS contents, do not be daunted by the huge size of the document. Merely pick one (or a few) subjects and write one or two short comments on them. Here are a few to choose from.

WATER QUALITY. The DEIS deals with erosion, but minimizes the effects of siltation and stream turbidity (which plays havoc with aquatic food chains). It should be obvious that the eroded soil will end up in our waterways. Furthermore, increased tree farming would increase the use of pesticides and fertilizers, which would also end up in our waterways (not adequately discussed in DEIS).

ENDANGERED SPECIES. The DEIS omits any mention of state endangered species (161, 100+ and 70 animal species in TN, GA, and AL, respectively). The DEIS does discuss federally endangered species and admits that some could be wiped out.

FORESTED WETLANDS. The DEIS acknowledges that the massive timber harvesting is likely to damage the remaining wetlands and associated wildlife species. (Forested wetlands are among the world's most productive ecosystems.)

TOURISM. A recent Chatanooga survey found that 95% of all persons visiting Southeast Tennessee listed "scenic beauty" as their No. 1 reason for coming here. How scenic will the area be when much of it is clearcut? How much will the tourist dollars due to recreational fishing (now almost \$1 billion annually in TN) be decreased when the streams have become silted by erosion from clearcuts? Conventions and trade shows are drawn by some of the same considerations that draw individual tourists, but the DEIS omits consideration of impacts on business travel.

BIODIVERSITY. Recent studies have shown that Appalachian forests that were clear-cut almost a century ago and allowed to grow back still have not returned to an old-growth condition and may never do so. The ground cover -- and, with it, much of the biodiversity -- has not been restored. The DEIS does not discuss the intrinsic value of species diversity to forest-ecosystem health and resiliency. The adverse effects of clear-cutting and mass tree planting on soil organisms are also not discussed.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON THE ESTABLISHED HARDWOOD INDUSTRY. Despite admitting that with present harvesting rates "all the forest would theoretically be harvested ... in 40 years," the DEIS goes on to conclude that there would remain substantial supplies of sawtimber-sized trees. It seems obvious, however, that the chipmills' appetites will essentially convert mature forests to pulpwood stands. The DEIS needs to explain how the 60,000 jobs within the Tennessee Valley's existing \$2-billion hardwood industry would remain "unaffected" if there is no 80- to 100-year-old timber for their manufacturing processes. TVA should study areas where chip mills have already operated; a full economic impact study of the boom-bust economies created by similar industries in the Pacific Northwest would be highly instructive.

If the above issues don't provide you with enough ammunition, there are numerous others (air-quality damage, depletion of soil nutrients, diminution of groundwater resources, increased traffic and noise, etc.) that could be discussed, and we would be glad to provide information. BUT HURRY: it is much better to submit a short, limited statement than to miss the deadline!

One general statement you may wish to make, however, is that TVA was created with the charge to achieve economic and environmental sustainability for this region. Most other federal agencies have

succumbed to corporate pressures at the expense of long-term interests. By denying the permits, TVA could become a national model for other agencies.

*** WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:** Urge TVA not to grant any of the chipmill permits. Send your comments to Paul Schmierbach, Manager, Environmental Quality Staff, TVA, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 8B, Knoxville, TN 37902. Remember that comments must be received by August 21. If you need to FAX your comments in order to meet the deadline, call 615-632-4223 to find out how to do so. Send a copy of your comments to your US Representative and both Senators and thank them for the stand they have taken against granting permits (Rep. Marilyn Lloyd recently joined Sasser, Gore, and Cooper in opposing the chipmill permits).

2. BIG SOUTH FORK LAND ACQUISITION

A. Status of appropriation

Funding for acquisition of authorized National Park System lands must be appropriated by the Congress from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Each year, the National Parks & Conservation Association (NPCA) develops a list of what they consider to be the highest-priority acquisition needs nationwide, and submits this list to chairmen of the Interior Appropriations subcommittees. For the past several years, TCWP has had the opportunity to provide input for the NPCA list. Now that NPCA has a Southeastern Representative (Don Barger), our input has found additional support.

Thus it came about that of only 5 projects nationwide recommended by NPCA for funding, one was the Big South Fork NRR. NPCA submitted its recommendations to Sen. Byrd in mid-July. Over a month before, Sen. Sasser had written to Sen. Byrd, requesting \$3 million for BSF land acquisition, a \$316,000 increase in BSFNRR operating funds, and \$1 million for Obed WSR development. Sen. Gore followed this lead. When the Senate bill was finally marked up, it included \$3 million for BSF land acquisition, a \$150,000 increase in the BSFNRR operating budget, \$800,000 for BSFNRR development, and \$200,000 for Obed WSR development. The House subcommittee bill contains none of these sums (although Congressman Cooper had requested \$3M in BSF acquisition funds), and it will therefore be up to the conference committee to come to a decision on these matters.

If the \$3M acquisition funding stays in the final bill, it will bring to \$6M the total funding appropriated for BSFNRR acquisition since the time the Park Service took over from the Corps of Engineers (\$2M

was appropriated last year, \$1M the year before); this sum should go along way toward what is needed to protect the 11,329-acre North White Oak Creek/Laurel Fork area that is so vital to the park and in such jeopardy from logging, mining and other developments. (An additional 5,000 acres also remain to be acquired elsewhere in the BSFNRR.) Because the Land Protection Plan was approved earlier this year, NPS is now in a position to proceed with acquisitions.

*** WHAT YOU CAN DO:** We do not yet know when the conference committee will meet, or who will be on it. However, Senators Sasser and Gore are bound to have some influence. As soon as possible, ask them to support the Senate provisions on acquisition and operating funds for the BSFNRR. Also be sure to thank the Senators and Rep. Cooper for their earlier efforts on behalf of BSF and Obed funding.

B. Laurel Fork tract acquired by The Nature Conservancy

In mid-July, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased a 1,200-acre tract in the headwaters of Laurel Fork (see ¶1A) from Willamette Industries. TNC, keeping track of various critical land transactions in Tennessee, had earlier purchased an option on this tract from Willamette. Now that TNC owns this property, it will eventually transfer it to the National Park Service. Laurel Fork is one of the cleanest tributaries of the BSF, and the area through which it flows is one of the most pristine.

3. OBED: MANAGEMENT PLAN; FUNDING

A. Draft management objectives for the Obed

The purpose of the planning workshop held in Warburg May 27-28 (NL 188 ¶1) was to develop "management objectives" intended to provide fundamental guidance for the Obed WSR General Management Plan now being generated. A preliminary draft that was issued about a month after the workshop lists the management objectives under three headings.

1. RESOURCES

Water: To achieve and maintain water quality at highest EPA levels to insure it does not impose a health hazard on swimmers or fish/aquatic life.

Landscape: To protect the natural systems, landscape character and biodiversity of the WSR area.

Fauna: To maintain the natural abundance and diversity of native game and fish populations.

2. VISITOR EXPERIENCE

General: To promote the opportunity and means to learn about, experience, and enjoy the special values

of the Obed WSR (essentially primitive, unpolluted, and generally inaccessible) while assuring the protection of those values.

For the "Wild" section: To provide the user the opportunity to experience the primitive nature of the resource between existing public bridge crossings.

For the "Recreational" Section [the Emory portion]: To provide the user the opportunity for outdoor recreation experiences in a natural setting.

3. DEVELOPMENT.

To provide the following types of access and development with minimal resource degradation in concert with river classification.

- Provide minimal vehicular access and public use facilities only at existing bridge crossings.
- Provide hiking trails.
- Provide scenic overlook experience(s).
- Allow for and manage primitive camping.

B. Obed facts

A booklet of Obed Graphics recently compiled by the National Park Service (NPS) is rich in facts, a few of which we present here. The interpretations are ours.

Length of the Obed River system protected under a 1976 amendment to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA): 45.2 miles.

Acres authorized by general provisions of WSRA: 14,464 (namely, 320 acres/mi). - Acres NPS plans to manage for Obed: ca. 5,000.

Within the boundaries are 19 miles of roads and 24 miles of existing trails. Twelve river access sites are in use by visitors.

Land acquisition has slowed tremendously. Between 1980 and 1986, inclusive, 52 tracts were acquired, an average of 7.4 per year. However, between 1987 and 1990, only 11 tracts were acquired, an average of a mere 2.8 per year. Within the presently drawn boundary, over 1,600 acres remain to be acquired, at an estimated cost of \$700,000.

The number of visitors to the Obed WSR is at its maximum between May and November, even though the water flow is at its lowest during that period. Thus, visitor uses besides float trips are of major importance.

C. With regard to operating budget, the Obed WSR is a stepchild

The booklet referred to in §3B above, provides a lot of insights into the Obed's very low funding status. Among 6 National Park Service units in the Southeast Region that have base funding of less than \$250,000

per year, the Obed WSR has by far the largest acreage. Clearly, the Obed is grossly underfunded, despite the major management challenges it represents (e.g., almost 100 miles of boundary, difficulty of patrolling). Another statistic also makes this point. Southeast Region parks with less than \$500,000 annual budgets average 238 acres per full-time equivalent (FTE) staff position; the Obed has 1015 acres per FTE (and that excludes Catoosa lands for which NPS shares joint responsibility). Among 25 such parks, the Obed is No. 24 in the size of its FY 1993 budget.

Ever since 1983, the Obed operating budget has remained fairly level in the range of \$125,000 to \$150,000 annually, and it is only slightly above that range now, despite the fact that there has been about a ten-fold increase in visitation since 1989.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: These figures need to be brought to the attention of our Congressional delegation.

D. Catoosa clearcuts

Because parts of Obed WSR (the Daddys Creek portion, most of the southern shore of the Obed, and parts of Clear Creek) lie within the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), shares management responsibilities with the National Park Service. Portions of Catoosa additional to those bordering the rivers are also of major importance to the Obed WSR in terms of visual significance and of watershed protection.

Because of this, clearcutting in Catoosa is a matter of concern. Clearcutting of hardwood forests has often been justified in terms of its supposed benefits for wildlife management. In this connection, it is interesting to look at the results of a study made by Don and Steve Todd in a 10-acre plot on Hatfield Mountain (in Catoosa) that was clearcut about 28 years ago. This plot has grown up into a thicket of 1"-to 6"-diameter trees, far more densely growing than is desirable, and long past the stage of providing browse. This new forest is almost totally sterile for production of wildlife food, and its composition indicates that it is likely to remain thus for many years to come. Oaks and other mast-producing trees are greatly outnumbered by other species. The forest floor is practically barren of new growth. "Weeding" this type of plot would be quite expensive.

Speaking before the Tenn. Wildlife Resources Commission, Don Todd proposed that clearcutting as a game-management tool be limited to those areas in Catoosa that have already been cut and that could be kept in a perpetual browse condition by the use of heavy cutters.

4. AROUND THE STATE

A. *Dam proposed for Fiery Gizzard*

Fiery Gizzard Creek flows through the Grundy Forest State Natural Area located in the vicinity of Tracy City (we'll be visiting it during our Annual Meeting, see ¶11A, this NL). The creek valley contains a unique remnant forest, left over from the last ice age, whose plant communities resemble those of Wisconsin.

The town of Tracy City now proposes to dam Fiery Gizzard Creek just north of Highway 58/41 in order to create a 95-acre water-supply reservoir. This would permanently destroy much of the unique Gizzard ecology.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Write to Robert Baker (Natural Resources Section, Division of Water Pollution Control, Tennessee Dept of Environment and Conservation, 4th floor, TERRA Building, 150 Ninth Ave, Nashville, TN 37247-3001) opposing the dam proposal (Permit Application 91-092). Request a public hearing and ask to be informed on when this is to take place. (2) Send a copy of your letter to your State Senator and Representative (see Political Guide for addresses).

B. *Two new TVA Small Wild Areas*

Many of us have, for almost a decade now, enjoyed and appreciated TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area. Now, two additional areas have been designated. The Big Ridge Small Wild Area is 207 acres of upland hardwoods on a scenic ridge overlooking Chickamauga reservoir. About one-third of the acreage is old-growth forest (some trees are ca. 200 years old), and the remaining forest is 60-80 years old. The site is habitat for the federally endangered plant, Mountain skullcap. The area is adjacent to the North Chickamauga Creek Greenway and to an environmental-education area. TVA's Wildlife and Natural Heritage Resources Section is working with local groups to develop a 1.25-mile loop hiking trail. See calendar for guided hikes in the area.

Another new TVA Small Wild Area is Short Springs near the city of Tullahoma. Pending a decision by this city and the state, Short Springs may end up as a 460-acre protected area. More news about this next time.

C. *1996 Olympics on Ocoee River*

The Atlanta Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games has accepted a State of Tennessee proposal to hold the Olympic whitewater slalom event on the Ocoee River. The proposal will be fully recommended to the International Olympic Committee in December. In addition to Governor McWhorter, Tennessee's Senators, Representatives Duncan and Lloyd, the US Forest Service (USFS), and TVA were instrumental in pushing this proposal

as a way to show the world the potential of SE Tennessee for outdoor recreation and tourism.

Ability to regulate water flow and proximity to Atlanta were the major factors in choice of the Ocoee. The State of Tennessee's feasibility study explored two possible sites -- the lower gorge (location of current whitewater use) and the upper river between TVA dams No. 2 and 3; the latter was chosen, with the course to be located 1.1 river miles above Power House No. 3. The Olympic events would take place 7/26 - 7/28/96, and are expected to draw 25,000 spectators. They would be preceded a year earlier (7/29-7/30/95) by the International Slalom Competition, which is expected to draw 13,000 spectators. The whitewater course will be "constructed" so as to increase water velocity; other constructions include judging platforms, footbridges, and service buildings of various kinds (athlete housing would be off-site).

The proposed site lies within the boundaries of the Cherokee National Forest. Therefore, the USFS (in cooperation with TVA and State agencies) will be generating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Among preliminary issues that have already been identified are effects on threatened habitats, including those of threatened or endangered species, effects on US 64 (which TDoT is proposing to reroute through fragile forest habitats (NL179 ¶4A; NL182 ¶5B; NL185 ¶5D)), effects on water quality, visual resources, flood-plain integrity, cultural resources, etc. To these, we would add possible effects on the Little Frog Wilderness area, which lies immediately adjacent to the proposed Olympic site.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: The deadline for participating in the "scoping process" was August 1. However, public meetings will be held, and there will be additional opportunities for input into the EIS process. You should indicate your desire to be kept informed about such opportunities by writing to Olympics Coordinator, Cherokee NF, PO Box 2010, Cleveland, TN 37320 or call Reese Scull, 615-476-9700.

D. *I-26 in East Tennessee is a disaster*

Environmental groups were asleep several years ago, when the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for construction of Interstate 26 between Johnson City, TN, and Asheville, NC, was being generated. South of Erwin, TN, I-26 would cross the high Appalachian Mountain chain at Sam's Gap, "upgrading" US Highway 23. Construction by contractors for the Tenn Dept of Transportation (TDoT), currently proceeding at a fast pace, has had disastrous environmental consequences; it has caused huge scars, and generated large quantities of silt and other pollution of streams that flow into the Nolichucky. Furthermore, there are no provisions for

wildlife crossing (e.g., viaducts). About 400 yds of the Appalachian Trail have been cleared.

Spurred by a Sierra Club complaint filed with the State Water Pollution Control Division, the Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation (DOEC) in July issued its second notice to TDoT (the first notice, in January, brought no results). This second notice cited 71 violations, involving inadequate erosion and sediment control. TDoT was ordered to submit a plan to address the problems.

Construction for the NC portion of I-26 has not yet begun. A hearing on the Draft EIS was held on July 21. As expected, business leaders supported the project, but numerous citizens pointed out that the DEIS fails to document either the need for an interstate, or to adequately analyze its social, economic, and environmental impacts; for example, the DEIS disregards aquatic organisms and downstream habitats.

If you want to keep informed on this issue, contact Bruce Clarke, Johnson City, TN, 615-282-8909, or Rusty Sivils, WNC Alliance, Asheville, NC, 704-258-8737

E. Center Hill marina proposal: Corps will prepare EIS

As a result of protests by groups of local residents and TCWP, and the intervention of Senators Sasser and Gore, the Corps of Engineers decided on June 8 to prepare a full EIS for the Center Hill marina project (originally, they proposed to do only an Environmental Assessment). The current proposal is for construction of a large marina and associated developments in the Florida Branch/Little Hurricane Creek area. At least 1000 acres (in addition to the construction of access roads) would be affected by a great deal of forest destruction and earth movement; the area is currently frequented by bald eagles.

It will take about a year to complete a draft EIS (DEIS). Hearings will be held, and there will be a 45-day comment period for the DEIS, and a 30-day comment period for the final EIS. The 5 alternatives the Corps is considering include three different marina sites, expansion of existing marinas, and no action. A recent letter from the District Engineer, Lt. Col. S.M. Sheppard, to Sen. Gore reveals the Corps' inclination to increase marina space one way or another. The letter states that Center Hill has fewer commercial marinas than do similar projects nearby, that there are waiting lists for moorage, etc. The State is constructing a 120-slip marina at Edgar Evans State Park, but Lt. Col. Sheppard believes that this will provide only short-term relief.

*** WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Contact Dana Stockwell (Environmental Resources Branch, US Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070, Ph.: 615-736-5026) and tell him that you wish to be on the mailing list for the EIS process. Also, let him have your suggestions on any issues you feel ought to be addressed in the EIS. (2) Thank Senators Gore and Sasser for the major role they played in having the Corps decide to do a full EIS (addresses on p. 2)

F. Recycling proceeds pay for cedar-glade's protection

The Tennessee Nature Conservancy's campaign for the conservation of rare cedar-glade communities recently received unusual financial support. Two years ago, American Airline flight attendants launched an aluminum-can recycling effort; recently, they decided to donate \$200,000 of the proceeds to TNC for purchase of 43 acres at Couchville Cedar Glade near Nashville. In addition, American Airlines employees are working in volunteer positions with Conservancy chapters nationwide; in Tennessee, they recently participated in a clean-up day at the Couchville site.

Cedar glades in Tennessee's central basin are marked by limestone outcroppings, shrubby thickets, and cedar forests. This habitat supports 27 plant species that are listed, or proposed for listing, on the State's registry of rare and endangered species. The beautiful Tennessee coneflower is one of these plants.

G. Status of Tennessee Rivers Assessment

The Tennessee Rivers Assessment came about through the joint efforts of TCWP and TSRA (NL 179 §36; NL 180 §2; NL 181 §5A; NL 182 §3A; NL 186 §4B). Steering Committee members (including TCWP's Jenny Freeman) and other participants in a workshop held May 7 and 8 began the process of describing the criteria to be employed for evaluating particular river-use categories.

*** There is still time for you to return the Rivers Assessment Survey form we enclosed with NL 186. This survey will be important in establishing river values and in identifying valuable rivers. If you need another copy of the form, send a self-addressed, stamped (29¢) envelope to TCWP (address at bottom of p. 1).**

H. Tennessee wetlands continue to be drained

A case of wetlands destruction is now in the courts. Two years ago, 200 acres of wetlands were drained by ditching, causing fishkills, as well as discharging major amounts of silt and other material into the Middle Fork Forked Deer River without a permit. Contrary to regulations that limited the ditch to 4 ft deep the Obion-Forked Deer Basin Authority had blasted the ditch 15 ft deep. Subsequently, the

Authority refused to abide by an EPA Administrative order to restore the required ditch dimensions. A lawsuit was filed in Federal Court by Chester McConnell and TEC (Tenn. Environmental Council). A Basin Authority motion that the law suit against them be dismissed has recently been denied by the Court.

J. Control of the zebra mussel

An exotic species, the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) has invaded Tennessee waterways and has an adverse impact on facilities and structures. TVA and the Corps of Engineers are preparing a joint Environmental Assessment (EA) on ways to control the mussel. Among methods to be considered are chemical treatment, thermal shock, desiccation, oxygen deprivation, mechanical removal, coatings, etc. If you want to have input into the EA process, write USACE-Nashville District, POBox 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070, Attn.: Mr. Richard Tippit, CEORN-EP-E.

5. SMOKIES WILDERNESS UPDATE

As you well know, Wilderness designation for the Smokies has been stymied, to these many years, by the efforts of the Swain County Cemetery Association and of Sen. Helms (R-NC) to build a 25-mile road north of Fontana Reservoir (NL183 §3A; NL184 §5A; NL185 §4; NL186 §3A). This is supposed to be a replacement for a road that was flooded when the reservoir was filled. In the past, NC's other senator, Terry Sanford, has supported a cash payment of \$16 million to Swain County in lieu of building a road. This position has been consistently supplied by wilderness advocates.

In late March, Sens. Sanford and Helms met to work out a compromise for their two pending bills. Sanford apparently offered to support the road-building part of Helms' bill, provided Helms would agree that the \$16 M to Swain County be paid upfront. Helms refused. Since that time, Helms has undergone open-heart surgery and will not be back in the Senate until January, except for short appearances. It is very probable, therefore, that there will be no action on a Smokies bill until next year.

In the meantime, there are some signs of a growing realization in Wayne County that the cemetery and anti-wilderness groups are preventing the county from garnering the \$16 M it desperately needs. It has even been suggested that as long as Cemetery Association members continue to receive free transportation across Fontana Reservoir by the Park Service, they will persist in their demands for the northshore road, and that NPS should therefore discontinue this service. However, Smokies

Wilderness advocates have consistently stated that they would support a clause in any wilderness legislation that would guarantee access to the cemeteries in the manner and to the extent that it is presently provided.

6. STRIPMINE NEWS

A. Washington overrules Knoxville to keep polluting mine open

The Skyline Coal Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Amax Coal Industries, Inc., the nation's third-largest coal producer, is operating a stripmine north of Chattanooga that is producing major amounts of toxic mine drainage. Almost two years ago, the Knoxville branch of the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) started citing this mine for violations, and required the company to develop an acceptable toxic-materials handling plan. Despite being granted numerous extensions, the company failed to develop a plan, and OSM finally issued a cease order in July of this year to shut down the Skyline operation.

Powerful Amax then complained to high levels of government; there is some speculation that they went to Dan Quayle's Competitiveness Council. Almost immediately, the uppermost levels of OSM forced the Knoxville office to withdraw the cease order. Skyline is thus continuing to generate toxic wastes, in violation of the law of the land.

B. The Rural Abandoned Mine Lands Program (RAMP)

Tennessee currently has 46,157 acres of rural abandoned mine lands that contribute silt and acid to our waterways. Although 12,174 acres have been given high priority under RAMP, little or no money has been made available by the federal government. Reclamation of these priority acres alone is estimated to cost \$70 million.

Under the 1977 Surface Mining Act, active coal-mine operators pay a "tax" into the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund (AMLF), namely, 35¢ and 15¢ per ton of surface-mined and deep-mined coal, respectively. Nationwide, averaged over roughly a decade, this has amounted to about \$240 million annually. The total Fund stands at over \$2 billion. By law, 20% of the AMLF can be transferred to the Sec. of Agriculture for RAMP, but the actual sum transferred has only been about one-fifth of this.

An informational meeting on this subject will be held August 18, 10:00 a.m. (CDT), at Cumberland Mountain State Park. If you are interested, contact Carson Camp, Dunlap, 615-949-3464 or 949-2115.

7. GREENWAYS FOR OAK RIDGE, AS WELL AS KNOXVILLE: A CALL FOR TCWP VOLUNTEERS

The Knox Greenways Coalition has made tremendous progress in the relatively short time since its creation. Recently, Sam Rogers took over from Judith Ideker as General Coordinator of the Coalition. Get in touch with him at 118 Westfield Road, Knoxville, TN 37919, if you need an update from our last report (NL188 ¶4B) or want to receive the Coalition's newsletter.

Now, Oak Ridge, too, is beginning to work on creating greenways. The Oak Ridge Greenways Task Force (which, to date, has no official status in City government) held its first meeting on August 3, with about 25 people in attendance, including TCWP President Maureen Cunningham. A slide show on the Knox Greenways program was presented, and several committees were formed, including one that will prepare a "vision statement." Maureen feels that TCWP's best contribution can be to work out how the city's existing system of greenbelts would best fit into a greenways program, e.g., whether some greenbelts could be linked by greenway corridors.

The Task Force, coordinated by Bob Ogg, will meet on the second Monday of each month. We feel that a number of TCWP members may be interested in working on this project. If you are, get in touch with Maureen at 483-8312 (H) or 481-8727 (W).



8. US FORESTS: THE CONSERVATION ISSUE OF THE DECADE

What is happening to forests -- the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest, the mixed deciduous forests of our region (see chipmunk threat, ¶1), the tropical rainforests worldwide -- illustrates dramatically the jeopardy to natural ecosystems everywhere. It behooves us to take a major interest in forests -- one reason they will constitute the theme of TCWP's annual meeting in October (¶11A, below).

A. NASA studies reveal Pacific Northwest Forests in greater peril than Amazonian rainforests

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center has in progress a long-range study to map changes in the Earth's surface. The latest satellite photos of this study have shown a surprising level of damage to the temperate rain forests of the Pacific Northwest. A recent *New York Times* article (6/11/92) quotes the senior scientist in charge of the study as saying that this "forest has been literally cut to pieces" by scattered clearcuts, placing the overall health of the forest at great risk, particularly with respect to species diversity. By contrast, the vast expanse of the Brazilian rain forest remains internally intact, although

the forest's edges have been pushed back by years of cutting and burning.

B. Status of forest protection bills

A number of forest bills are in committee, but none has reached the floor of either house. Two bills would greatly hasten forest destruction: (a) S.2762 (Gorton, R-WA)/HR.5256 (Smith, R-OR), which would implement the Bush-Administration's preferred plan and eliminate citizens' right to judicial review; (b) S.1156 (Packwood, R-OR), which would mandate logging levels regardless of the Endangered Species Act and any other laws.

A House bill, however, presents opportunities for protecting the ancient forests of the Northwest. A scientific panel was convened last summer by a Congressional committee to consider endangered species, fish, and watershed protection, as well as timber-cut levels and employment impacts. The panel formulated 14 options for forest protection, with the least protective being #1, and the most protective #14. Based on the science of the panel, two House committee chairmen, George Miller (D-CA) and Kikadela Garza (D-TX), subsequently introduced a short (3-page) skeleton bill, HR.4899, which left a blank where the option number from the panel's report would be inserted. Subcommittee mark-ups in May resulted in an Agriculture Committee bill with Option 8(a), and an Interior Committee bill with Option 12(c). The latter is considered the minimum necessary for restoring and maintaining this latter ecosystem.

During full committee mark-up in mid-June, House Speaker Foley (D-WA) blocked the 12(c) Interior Committee version of HR.4899 in favor of the very weak 8(a) version that was passed by the full House Agriculture Committee. In late June, Senators Leahy (D-VT) and Adams (D-WA) introduced S.2895, which provides the 12(c) level of protection. All bills would also provide assistance to workers and economically-stressed communities.

While other forests in the region that lack spotted owl populations were not included in the scientific-panel study, they should be included in protective legislation. These are the drier ponderosa pine forests on the east side of the Oregon and Washington Cascades, and the ancient forests of the northern California Sierras. The House Agriculture Committee bill does address protection of the Sierran Forests of California; and the Senate bill includes the eastside-Cascade forests (an amendment to include Californian Sierra forests has a good chance of succeeding).



WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Urge your Representative to support the strongest level of protection for HR.4899: Option 12(c) is the minimum. Also ask that Eastside Cascade and California-Sierra

forests be included. Your Representative should ask Speaker Foley not to interfere with the Committee process. (2) Ask both of your Senators to co-sponsor the Leahy/Adams bill and to support addition of Californian-Sierra forests. (3) For the latest information, call the Western Ancient Forest Campaign at 202-939-3328.

C. **"Wise-Use" movement targets ancient forests**

The "wise-use" movement pretends to represent diverse grassroots interest. In effect, these groups are a front for extractive industries -- oil, mining, and especially timber. "Wise users" call themselves "neo-environmentalists" and claim to represent a "balanced approach." In fact, a better name for the group would be "Resource-Abuse Movement."

In targeting the remaining ancient forests, the movement is fighting in three public-policy arenas: (a) to expand individual property rights at the expense of ancient forests; (b) to weaken the Endangered Species Act as it comes up for reauthorization; and (c) to increase the timber cut allowed by private companies on public lands.

Resource abusers try to present the ancient forest issue as "people versus owls," and blame ecosystem protection for regional job losses. It should be noted, however, that even while the industry was cutting record amounts of timber from public lands in the 1980s, it eliminated 25,000 jobs. This was due to modernization of the mills and the export of unprocessed logs overseas. Timber from public land supports far fewer jobs than does that from private and industrial timberlands. The industry has overcut its own lands, so when all ancient forests on public lands are cut (and, at the recent rate, this would occur in ten years) there will not be enough timber to support many jobs in the region.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** In supporting forest-protection bills (188, above), point out to your Representative and Senators that many vital sectors of the Northwest economy depend on the public ancient forests, their wildlife, and the water they provide. Fishing (\$1.5 billion annually in the region) and tourism (2.3 billion annually in Oregon alone) are prime examples. Non-quantified benefits (e.g., scenic beauty) attract businesses and investments to the region. By contrast, it is estimated that logging on Forest Service lands of the region will generate only \$1 billion in revenues.

D. **The status of logging in spotted-owl country**

In summary: at a standstill. Two years after the northern spotted owl was listed as a threatened species, there is still no federal owl-recovery plan. The USFS and BLM plans do not meet the requirements of the law, and these agencies have

thus been enjoined by federal courts from harvesting old-growth forest. About two years ago, the Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS') Thomas committee recommended saving about 8 million acres of owl habitat. A very similar recommendation made last fall by another federal team was bottled up for 5 months by Interior Secretary Lujan, who finally issued it along with his own plan that would have jeopardized the owl AND its jobs.

Both reports were released right after the God Squad ruled that logging could proceed on 13 of the 44 timber sales that FWS had said would jeopardize the owl's survival (NL 188 §9B). A God Squad condition for the 13 sales was that BLM produce an owl-management plan consistent with the FWS' recovery plan. BLM has not produced such a plan.

In addition, the courts have required BLM and the USFS to generate Environmental Impact Statements, based on new data, including some that show the owl's decline to be faster than anticipated. Each agency's EIS must also take into account the effects of logging by the other agency. (Source: *Defenders*, Jul/Aug 92)

E. **The right to appeal USFS actions**

In keeping with the Bush Administration's anti-regulatory agenda, the Forest Service (USFS) recently promulgated regulations eliminating the right of citizens to appeal agency decisions on timber sales, road construction, and oil & gas leases (NL 188 §6A). This elimination had been a major agenda item for the timber industry for some time. Even environmentally destructive decisions cannot now be challenged by citizens, except through costly court proceedings. The appeals process is essential for keeping the USFS accountable to the public; it has served well in the past to ensure the agency's compliance with environmental laws.

Sen. Wyche Fowler (D-GA) has now introduced the Forest Service Decision-making and Appeals Reform Act, which would restore the previous appeals system. In addition, it would mandate a 30-day pre-decisional public comment period. This bill clearly deserves our strong support.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Write to both senators, urging their strong support of Sen. Fowler's bill. (If you need additional arguments concerning this issue, consult NL 188 §6A.) Sen. Gore deserves our thanks for joining a group of senators who recently wrote to the Sec. of Agriculture, expressing their concern about the USFS appeals ban. (2) Urge your Rep. to support similar legislation in the House. (3) Thank Sen. Fowler for his bill and urge him to persevere.

F. Reports that critically examine the Forest Service

(1) In February, the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), an analytical arm of the Congress, released a report on the USFS planning process. Among OTA's findings: (a) USFS plans overemphasize timber outputs and pay little attention to the sustaining of ecosystems; (b) monitoring of management activities has been inadequate; (c) the USFS "has not used public input efficiently or effectively in its planning process." The report is also critical of FORPLAN, a computer program that is used in national forest planning. Among other failings, FORPLAN includes "non-use" values (e.g., watershed protection, esthetics) not as positive factors, but only as constraint on uses and outputs.

The report, entitled "Forest Service Planning: Accommodating Uses, Producing Outputs, and Sustaining Ecosystems" (GPA stock #052-003-01264-2), is available for \$10 from Supt. of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Wash., DC 20402-9325.

(2) *Forest Watch* has published a highly informative *Citizens' Guide to the Forest Service Budget*. In addition to 33 fact-packed pages on every conceivable aspect of this issue, the *Guide* also includes a Forest-by-Forest report of 1991 timber receipts and expenses.

The *Guide* is a special issue of *Forest Watch* magazine (ISSN 0738-0585), which has also published other guides (Forest Planning, Timber Management, etc.). Each guide costs \$2 (\$9.95 for six); order from CHEC, 14417 S.E. Laurie, Oak Grove, OR 97267. For info, call 503-652-7049.

9. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

A. Endangered Species Act - battle of the decade

A priority item in the "wise-use" (read, "resource-abuse" -- NL186 ¶9E) movement's hit list is the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which is up for reauthorization in September (though the process is expected to extend well into 1993 or beyond). The ESA has weathered 3 re-authorizations in its 20-year history; therefore, the resource-abuse strategy is emasculation, rather than scrapping, of the Act. A major effort by the environmental community will be needed, not only to keep the Act alive, but to strengthen it.

Habitat destruction is the major contributor to species extinction, yet the ESA often fails to protect habitat. For example, shooting an endangered animal may be a crime, but bulldozing its habitat may

not be. HR 4045 by Gerry Studds (D-MA) reauthorizes and strengthens the ESA by requiring that critical habitat be designated within two years after a species is listed.

The bill would also improve the ESA's effectiveness in a number of other ways. (a) It gives priority to integrated multispecies recovery plans, thus protecting whole ecosystems. (b) It directs that multispecies recovery plans include "candidate" species as well as listed species (there is currently a backlog of well over 3,000 species awaiting listing decisions). (c) It authorizes citizens to file suit immediately (instead of after the 60-day waiting period currently required) in emergencies that pose a significant risk to an endangered species. (d) It doubles the authorized funding for the ESA over the next 5 years in order to speed up the listing process, and authorizes \$20 for a new Habitat Conservation Planning Fund.

"The ESA is not just about wildlife, it is about humanity's relationship to the planet. For despite the act, species are vanishing faster than ever -- proof that we humans are living beyond our ecological means" (A. A. Berle, pres. of Natl. Audubon).



WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Urge your Representative and Senators (addresses on p.2) to support Studds' excellent and badly needed bill. Ask them, specifically, to tell you whether they will co-sponsor H.R. 4045 (in the House, or a companion bill in the Senate). To date, Sen. Gore and Rep. Gordon have expressed positive attitudes (reinforce them!), Reps. Lloyd and Tanner have been non-committal (get them to commit support!), and Reps. Sundquist and Duncan have been hostile (present them with the myth-busting facts we summarized in NL188 ¶10D, and tell them that 66% of voters support the ESA). (2) Write for ESA Activist materials, including a "lookit!" brochure, video, references, etc. (Wildlife Dept., National Audubon Soc., 666 Penn. Ave., Wash., DC 20003, Ph: 202-547-9009).

B. Montana "wilderness" bill must be stopped

S.1696, a disastrous bill purporting to set aside Montana wilderness, was railroaded through the Senate in March (NL187 ¶7B). S.1696 protects only 1.5 million acres of the state's wilderness lands (mostly high-elevation and non-forested lands that are not in danger of exploitation anyway) but releases more than 4 million acres to logging and mining. Included among the released lands are ancient forests in NW Montana, and habitat for grizzly, elk, and moose.

In the House, Agriculture and Interior subcommittees have now scheduled hearings on this bill. There are indications that sponsors will try to rush the bill to the House floor.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your Representative (address on p.2) to strongly oppose S.1696, the Montana National Forest Management Act. Explain that it is not a wilderness bill at all, and that it will open millions of acres of wildland to exploitation.

C. Reform of the 1872 Mining Law may be on the way

A 120-year-old law has permitted our public lands to be seriously damaged by uncontrolled "hardrock" (metal-ore) mining. On June 24, the House Interior Committee, despite the scare tactics by resource-abuse groups (e.g., People for the West), at long last approved a strong, comprehensive reform of the 1872 Mining Law. This antiquated law permits the "patenting" of claims to minerals on public lands at a cost to the claimant of but a few dollars. Mining companies, further, have to pay no royalties for the extraction of mineral wealth, nor do they have to fund reclamation for environmentally devastating operations.

The reform bill that was marked up by the Interior Committee was a strengthened version of Rahall's HR.918. The bill that was finally sent to the House of Representatives contains all of the features sought by reform forces: the right to say No, tight reclamation requirements, a 8% royalty payable by the miner on the value of metals taken from public lands, and a reclamation fund for hardrock mines (with funding from one-half of the royalty receipts).

The Senate Energy Committee was expected to debate mining law reform in July, but we do not yet know the outcome.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Thank those on the House Committee who strengthened and passed the bill in the face of vocal opposition from the resource-abuse movement. Special thanks to Chairman George Miller, and to Reps. Rahall (D-WV), Johnson (D-SO), Richardson (D-NM), Owens (D-UT), De Fazio (D-OR), Jontz (D-IN) and Vento (D-MN). Unfortunately, Tennessee Congressman John Duncan, Jr., along with the committee's other 16 Republicans, opposed reform at every step of the way, as well as in the final vote. Let him know your feelings on this. (2) Contact both of your Senators and urge them to support strong, comprehensive 1872 Mining Law reform.

D. Wildlife can't find refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge system

A 1991 study by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) found that more than 60% of the system's 472 "refuges" had at least one activity harmful to wildlife. Some of these activities -- military air and ground exercises, grazing, mining, jet-skiing -- are, in fact, driving wildlife species closer to extinction. Reagan Administration policies placed higher priorities on

opening the refuges to commercial activities than on protecting wildlife.

Although the National Wildlife Administration Act of 1966 requires the FWS to determine that a use is compatible with wildlife protection before permitting it, the Act is vague and provides little guidance. Legislation has now been introduced that would remedy the situation. S.1862 (Graham, D-FL)/HR.3688 (Gibbons, D-FL) and HR.2881 (Studds, D-MA) would specifically delineate the purposes of the system: to protect wildlife and biological diversity. The legislation would set up a procedure for determining compatibility of uses, and would require management plans for individual refuges and for the system as a whole.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your Senators and Representative to co-sponsor S.1862/HR.3688 and HR.2881. Addresses are on p.2.

E. Second breach in Bush's "no net loss of wetlands" pledge

Last year, Quayle's Council on Competitiveness proposed revising definitions in the Federal Wetlands Delineation Manual that would allow millions of wetlands to be destroyed by developments. Now, the Administration is proposing to bust the "swambuster" provision of the 1990 Farm Bill. This provision prohibits subsidies to farmers who drain wetlands without meeting certain guidelines. If it were to become operative, the taxpayer would, in effect, be subsidizing the draining of countless prairie potholes (seasonal wetlands on the Great Plains) that are vital to migrating birds.

HR.4255, the Wetlands Reform Bill introduced by Rep. Edwards (D-CA) seeks to improve wetlands protection and wetlands restoration, while allowing for exemption of lands already used for agriculture, ranching, and silviculture. It would defer any changes in the Federal Wetlands Delineation Manual to a study by the National Academy of Sciences. This bill will be fought by developers and by the Farm Bureau. The Clean Water Network recommends that you urge your Representative to co-sponsor HR.4255, and to oppose HR.1330, the anti-wetlands bill. Remind him/her of some of the many benefits wetlands provide: wildlife habitat, fisheries, flood control, pollution prevention, groundwater "recharging."

* **F. Threats to Glacier Bay and beyond**

Glacier Bay is one of the very few National Park System units established primarily for scientific purposes. Under the terms of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the Bay's coastal marine waters are the only ones on the entire west coast of North America that are legally protected from fishing activities. In addition, NPS has limited cruise-ship entry, (a) to protect the

endangered humpback whales that make the Bay their home, and (b) to preserve the quality of the visitor's experience. (NPS is currently developing a new Vessel Management Plan that will have extensive public review.)

These protections are now threatened by S.1624 (Mukowski, R-AK)/HR.3418 (Young, R-AK), which would amend ANILCA to allow commercial and subsistence fishing in park waters and to increase the number of cruise ships, regardless of potential impacts on the ecosystem. In addition, NPS current authority over the waters and submerged lands of the Bay would be transferred to the state of Alaska.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to your Senators and Representative (addresses on p.2), opposing S.1624/HR.3418. Send a copy to J. M. Ridenour, Director, National Park Service (U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Wash. DC 20240). Here are additional points you may wish to make. (a) Basic decisions about the park were already made under ANILCA; management decisions within the terms of that law should be left to NPS resource managers, who are most qualified to determine the extent of outside activity that the valuable ecosystem can sustain. (b) Glacier Bay is a national treasure; it should not be subject to management decisions by the state of Alaska, which does not have the mandate to preserve our national resources, and which responds to economically-oriented interests rather than to ecological-protection needs.

We remind you of another threat to Glacier Bay -- and the entire river system beyond it -- which was brought to your attention in NL188 ¶8C. The proposed Windy Craggy Mine, on a mountain top just 15 miles across the border in British Columbia, would be the largest open-pit copper-gold-silver-cobalt-zinc mine in the world. The US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service have objected to this project because the deposition of huge amounts of exposed acid-bearing rock in the watershed would cause irreparable damage.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Our own Senator Gore has introduced S.JR.290, requesting the Canadian government to deny approval of the mine. Thank him, and urge Sen. Sasser to co-sponsor S.JR.290. Urge your Representative to co-sponsor a similar House resolution, HJR.460 (Owens, D-UT). (2) Write to Mike Harcourt, Premier of British Columbia (Legislative Bldgs, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4, Canada -- requires 39¢ postage) and urge him to oppose the mine and to support wilderness protection for the Alsek and Tatshenshini river valleys.

10. THE ELECTIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A. The Gore factor

Tennesseans who have kept up with environmental news do not need to be convinced of Sen. Gore's superb record in that area. Nationally, he is viewed thus by the League of Conservation Voters (LCV): "Sen. Al Gore's environmental record is second to none in the U.S. Senate when it comes to innovative solutions to environmental problems. More than any other Senator, Gore has been a future-minded leader in understanding the dangers facing our life-support systems, namely ozone depletion and global warming." Among other specifics cited by LCV: he has voted consistently to protect national parks and wilderness areas, pledged to vigorously enforce wetland protection laws, and consistently sides with environmentalists on coastal issues; he supports the increase of automobile fuel-efficiency standards; he advocates advanced forms of mass transit; he supports funding for the UN Population Fund for population stabilization programs; he co-authored the original Superfund legislation, and has worked extensively on strengthening and expanding the Clean Air Act.

Gore is the author of *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*, which we summarized in NL187 ¶8C. He started the Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future to disseminate information to the public about environmentally sound technologies. Gore chaired the US Senate delegation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), better known as the Earth Summit.

We'll let you make your own comparisons with Quayle, Head of the White House Council on Competitiveness. A brief summary of Pres. Bush's recent record appeared in NL188 ¶11B.

B. To help you pick pro-environment candidates

This year, when the "wise-use" movement is working hard to weaken our country's environmental protection, it is particularly important to elect pro-environment candidates. Two organizations can help you do so.

(1) The non-partisan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) (1701 L Street, NW Suite 550, Wash., DC 20036, Ph: 202-785-8683) has compiled its *National Environmental Scorecard*, available for \$6. We occasionally bring you excerpts from this Scorecard. LCV also publishes *State-specific versions of the National Environmental Scorecard* (free), which also include voter-registration and federal- and state-race information.

(2) *Project Vote Smart*, founded by a non-partisan group of politicians, including Jimmy Carter,

Barry Goldwater, and George McGovern, provides voters with accurate, unbiased data. A toll-free hotline (1-800-786-6885) provides instant access to detailed information on presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial candidates for the November election. The group also offers *The Voter's Self Defense Manual*, a reference guide to candidates. To order, call 1-900-786-6885; the cost of the call is \$3 and covers printing and postage.

11. TCWP NEWS

A. Annual Meeting will feature forest issues

You should soon receive a preliminary announcement of our Annual Meeting, which will be held October 23-25 at the Dubose Conference Center in Monteagle. While the details of the program will not be finalized until after we send the preliminary notice, we can already tell you that our speakers will be experts on forest issues, and will address several areas of interest, such as the chipmill problem, national forest planning, and state forests. We hope that you will share this information with your friends and invite them to attend part or all of the meeting; they don't need to be TCWP members. Monteagle is right in the beautiful South Cumberland, close to Savage Gulf, Fiery Gizzard (see ¶4A, this NL), and other attractions, and we will have outings into these areas Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The Conference Center has comfortable accommodations and good food. This year, also, we hope to have special activities for children.

B. TCWP has a new Executive Director

She is Joan Burns, B.A. in political science, a relatively recent Oak Ridge arrival, who has demonstrated her organizational and public-relations skills in her earlier work for community and Red Cross blood centers in Florida and Atlanta, and for Habitat for Humanity of Anderson County.

Joan will be working an average of 10 hours per week. She started working late in July, and her first job was to write and distribute the chipmill-hearing alert. She also travelled to Chatanooga to present oral testimony at the hearings.

We are again the sole occupants of the TCWP office (for the past couple of years, we have been sharing with ADFAC), so Joan will do most of her work there (in the Activities Bldg of the First Presbyterian Church). Maureen Cunningham has lent her Macintosh-Plus computer and printer to the office, but we would love to have the following additional loans or donations:

- an external hard disk, or disk drive
- a small computer table (the desk is too high)

- a computer chair
- money!

The reason we could use money is that (a) our monthly rent has gone from \$20 to \$50, and (b) we'd love to be able to afford a telephone for the office (which will cost us for the instrument, installation, and monthly charges).

C. Recent activities by TCWP Board members

- Maureen Cunningham (TCWP pres.) and Larry Pounds traveled to Chattanooga, along with Joan Burns, to present oral testimonies at the chipmill hearings.
- Neil McBride assembled an orientation package to help Joan get acquainted with TCWP.

D. Writing back

How often have you written to a politician and received a noncommittal response that merely restates the issue and ends with "I am grateful for your interest in this matter and will keep your views in mind"? Don't just let it go: write back! Ask the person directly what his/her position is on the issue, and restate yours.

When your lawmaker agrees with you and is citing some concrete action on his/her part, write back to thank him/her. When someone clearly disagrees with you, it is doubtful you'll change his/her mind with further facts. The person may get persuaded (or at least neutralized) by political pressure, e.g. by receiving lots of letters similar to yours.

E. Reminders - once again

- Have you paid your dues?
- Have you filled out and mailed the Rivers Assessment questionnaire that was enclosed with NL 186?
- Did you save your POLITICAL GUIDE in an accessible place? And are you using it often?
- If you have an interest in working on one of TCWP's issues, have you contacted us (p.1) or the responsible Board member (see NL 187 ¶11A)?

F. We thank our volunteers

We are grateful to the following people who helped assemble Newsletter 188 on June 9: Dick Ambrose, Dan Davis, Frank Hensley, Bob and Ruth Kernohan, Charlie Klubunde, and Helen Warren. Thank you!

You may have received NL 188 quite late -- several people in Oak Ridge had not received it one week after it was mailed (6/10/92). We checked with the Post Office, and it turns out that, even though we ourselves sort the envelopes for Oak Ridge addressees into a separate tray, the P.O. sends this

tray to Knoxville (along with the others) from where it comes back to Oak Ridge to be distributed. We are talking to the P.O. about this.

12. JOB OPENINGS: ACTIVITIES; READING MATTER

- **JOB OPENING.** The Appalachian Community Fund, a 6-year-old foundation funding social justice work in central Appalachia, is looking for a fulltime Program Associate. Salary, ca. \$20,000 plus benefits. Write Executive Director, Appalachian Community Fund, 517 Union Ave., Suite 206, Knoxville, TN 37902; Ph.: 523-5783.
- August 18 and 25, 9 p.m. (EDT), Audubon TV Specials on PBS: "If Dolphins Could Talk" and "Grizzly Bears," respectively.
- August 21, deadline for receipt of comments on TVA's shipmill EIS (see ¶1, this NL).
- Starting September 10, "Taking Care of the Earth: a How-to Course for Environmentalists," will be offered (non-credit) by U.T. Knoxville. Classes will be held Thursdays from 7-9pm; last class, October 29. Fee, \$40. Call Diane Lovin, U.T. Noncredit Program, 974-0150; or Emily Ellis, 588-3865 (evenings).
- September 9-11, River Heritage Regional Conference, Chattanooga, sponsored by TVA. Call Nancy Benziger Brown, TVA, 615-632-7358.
- September 10 and 11, Tennessee Recycling Conference, Nashville. Call 615-277-3037.
- September 11-13, Tenn. Environmental Education Assoc. Annual Conf., Reelfoot Lake State Park. Call 901-678-2545.
- September 19, Foothills Land Conservancy annual meeting. Call Jim Rugh, 615-584-6133.
- Sept. 20-22, National Trails Symp., Missoula, Montana. Contact Bob Walker, 406-444-4585.
- October 3 and Nov. 7, guided hikes through TVA's new Big Ridge Small Wild Area (see ¶4B, this NL). Contact Judith Bartlow, 615-632-1592.
- October 23-25, TCWP Annual Meeting, see ¶11A, this NL.
- Kids for a Clean Environment ("Kids F.A.C.E.") was started by a 9-year-old Tennessee girl, Melissa Poe. There are lots of varied activities and no dues (though donations are accepted). To find out how to start a Kids F.A.C.E. chapter in your town, write Kids F.A.C.E., POBox 158254, Nashville, TN 37215.
- *World Resources 1992-1993* contains essential information on economic, population, environmental, and natural-resource conditions and trends for 146 countries, plus reports on pressing global issues. Produced by the World Resources Institute in cooperation with the UN Environmental Programme

and the UN Development Programme, the book contains over 150 tables, charts and figures, and informative, useful summaries. You can order it for \$19.95 (plus \$3 shipping) by calling 1-800-822-0504. The data are also available in a software package in two formats.

- Much of the latest 14-page issue of *River Voices* is devoted to a discussion of the "Resource-Abuse" movement, particularly as it relates to river conservation efforts. Contact River Network, POBox 8787, Portland, OR 97207, Ph.: 1-800-423-6747.
- Now may be a good time to read *Earth in Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*, by Sen. Al Gore, Jr. It is strong in its science, and inspiring in its values, and its author has become a national interest. See NL187 ¶8C for review. (Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., available in area bookstores.)
- *The 1992 River Conservation Directory* has been published jointly by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and American Rivers, Inc. This valuable resource lists nearly every non-profit organization and government agency involved in managing and protecting America's rivers. Available from US Govt. Printing Office, Supt. of Documents, Mail Stop SSOP, Wash, DC 20402-9328 [ISBN 0-16-037918-0].
- The second edition of *A Citizen's Guide to Oak Ridge* is a product of the Oak Ridge Education Project, The Foundation for Global Sustainability, POBox 1101, Knoxville, TN 37901.
- *Vote for the Earth: The League of Conservation Voters' Election Guide* may be obtained from LCV, 1707 L Street, Suite 550, Wash, DC 20036.
- *Making Connections* is a directory and resources guide describing 345 community groups in the Southeast that work on environmental issues. The directory is available for \$9 from STEP, Center for Health Services, Vanderbilt Univ., Station 17, Box 567, Nashville, TN 37232, Ph.: 615-322-4848.
- *Grassroots River Protection: Saving Rivers under the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act through Community-Based River Protection Strategies and State Actions*, by Chn's Curtis; 152 pp. \$15.95 from American Rivers, 801 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suite 400, Wash, DC 20003. (Ask them about their other publications, too.)
- The first in a series of *What Works* reports is entitled *Air Pollution Solutions*, 109 pp. Published by the Environmental Exchange, 1930 - 18th Street, NW, Wash., DC 20009.

See ¶9F for reports on the USFS.

